

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Damien Batters – TEMPLE MISTRESS.

Date: 6 January 2023

Panel: P Zimmermann, G Goold.

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into information conveyed by text message by trainer Damien Batters to a previous part owner of TEMPLE MISTRESS and further information received by Stewards from another prior part owner alleging that TEMPLE MISTRESS had bled when previously in the care of Mr Batters.

After considering all evidence, Mr Batters was issued with a charge pursuant to AR 79(2) which reads:

If a horse has an attack of bleeding at any time it must be reported by the trainer to the Stewards without delay.

The specifics of the charge being that trainer Damien Batters forwarded a text message to a previous owner of TEMPLE MISTRESS in September 2022 stating that the mare had bled during trackwork whilst previously under his care as the trainer of TEMPLE MISTRESS.

Mr Batters pleaded not guilty to the charge and made submissions in response.

After considering these submissions, Stewards were satisfied to the requisite standard that the evidence substantiated the charge and Mr Batters was formally found guilty.

When considering penalty, the Stewards considered Mr Batters personal circumstances and relevant precedents. Stewards also had to consider the failure to report the matter had the potential to adversely impact the safety of riders and horses. Any penalty must serve as a specific deterrent to Mr Batters and a general deterrent to the wider industry to outline the critical importance of reporting these matters without delay.

Furthermore, Mr Batters was advised that TEMPLE MISTRESS would be declared a first-time bleeder pursuant to AR 79(4) from 3 June 2022 the date in which TEMPLE MISTRESS left his stable.

Mr Batters was subsequently fined \$1000.

He was made aware of his rights to an internal review.